I never truly realized how much free software is out there. I am always looking for new ways to get and keep my students interested. Unfortunately, a good amount of the software that I tried to review was blocked by my organization. One of the websites that I was able to review was [www.gliffy.com](http://www.gliffy.com) This website seems like a great way to incorporate diagrams, flow charts, organization charts, etc. into everyday lessons. One thing that I found to be really different was being able to make your own floor plan. This could be really fun for students interested in design or decorating. It would also be great for practicing math and reasoning skills.

Another website that I found to be interesting was [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) I have taken surveys in the past through survey monkey, but I had no idea that it was a free application! Being that I have older students, I think that using surveys and questionnaires really help to keep them motivated and interested in class work. I also think that this would be a really great piece of software for the students to utilize for themselves. Although they would need much guidance, I think that this could be something that they could feel proud of themselves about.

[http://www.eduhound.com/hotlist/](http://www.eduhound.com/hotlist/%20) is another great website for teachers, parents, students, related service providers, etc. This free site allows you to create your own web page that includes your “hot list” or websites and software, etc. that you have found. This is extremely helpful because it allows people to share their findings with one another. Whenever I find a new website or, I always try to send the links to my co-workers….this helps because it keeps staff up-to-date with the newest ideas, plans, lessons, software, etc. This website, however, allows you to create your own webpage so that you can not only share what you have found, but so that you can also see and take advantage of what others have found! We should not have to constantly reinvent the wheel!!

[http://fullmeasure.co.uk/powertalk/](http://fullmeasure.co.uk/powertalk/%20) is free software that enables your power points to be spoken out loud. I thought that this would be a great thing to have for my students! Many of my students are at the 2-3rd grade reading level, which makes it very difficult for them to read on their own. This would be a really neat application to use with them for 2 reasons: they would be able to stop listening to me talk all the time and they would be able to listen to the power point on their own with headphones!!